

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/691,999

Examiner

Ponnoreay Pich

Applicant(s)

AGARWAL ET AL.

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/16/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-6, 8-11 and 13-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Todd Burns (Reg. #59,170) on 4/26/2007. The amendment to claim 1 is to avoid a possible 112, second paragraph rejection in which "orders" could be interpreted as "requests", whereas the meaning that is meant to be applied is "arranges" or "sorts", i.e. the elements in a list being arranged/sorted so that they appear in the list in a specific order. Claim 7 is cancelled because the last amendment by applicant renders the subject matter recited therein redundant to what is already recited in claim 1 while it also renders claim 8 indefinite. The amendment to claim 8 is to change the dependency to claim 1 since claim 7 is cancelled. The non-elected claims were also approved for cancellation by Mr. Burns. As the content of the interview has been summarized herein, a separate interview summary form is not provided, see MPEP 713.04.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A computer-implemented data security system that facilitates securing a data item comprising:

a computer-readable memory comprising a data store that includes at least one hierarchical data structure that comprises a plurality of data items; and

a security component stored in the computer-readable memory that automatically applies at least one of a plurality of security policies to at least a first subsection of the data store and ~~orders, via an ordering component,~~ arranges the order of a plurality of Access Control Entries (ACE) in an Access Control List (ACL), wherein said arranges the order is done by an ordering component, based at least upon detection of type of the at least one hierarchical data structure, the at least one of a plurality of security policies employs the ACL.

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (currently amended) The system of claim 1 [[7]], the Access Control List is associated with a holding relationship of a containment hierarchy.

Claims 22-33 (cancelled).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: As per claim 1, the prior art does not teach applying at least one of a plurality of security policies to a first subsection of the data store and ordering/sorting/arranging of ACE's in an ACL based at least upon detection of type of the at least one hierarchical data structure. The closest prior arts taught that depending on the type of hierarchical data structure used to hold data items, the entries and order of the entries that appear in a specific ACL may

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vary due to inheritance and due to the nature of the data structure. However, the prior art does not determine the type of hierarchical data structure and depending on the type of hierarchical data structure determined, arrange the elements in the ACL in a specific order. The rest of the pending claims are dependent on claim 1 and are allowable due to dependency to claim 1.

It is noted that computer-readable memory is not explicitly defined in the specification as referring to software per se or signals, thus as per Office policy, the examiner interpreted the memory as being tangible memory, i.e. hardware, thus the prior 101 rejections to the claims are withdrawn due to applicant's amendments.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

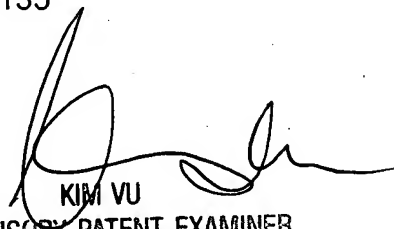
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ponnoreay Pich whose telephone number is 571-272-7962. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-4:30pm Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PP

Ponnoreay Pich
Examiner
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KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100